

# DISCOVERY

BROOKS  
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The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 29, No. 1 - Friday, Jan. 7, 2005 - Brooks City-Base, TX

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## Symbolic march to highlight Brooks' MLK observance

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A symbolic march from Hangar 9 to the Brooks Chapel will highlight the base's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. observance on Jan. 13. The Brooks community is invited to participate in this silent march that begins at 3:15 p.m.

The march, the first to be held here in more than a decade in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, will feature children from the Brooks Youth Center who will carry the lead banner that they designed, organizers say.

"We wanted to get the children involved, for they are our future," said Master Sergeant Deborah Harrell, chair of the Brooks MLK Memorial Observance Committee who is also the Brooks Military Equal Opportunity Office superintendent. The event's symbolism, she explained, honors Dr. King who used marches during the Civil Rights Movement to address important social issues.

Following the march at about 3:35 p.m., an MLK memorial service will be held at the chapel. Col. Edward Maney, Installation Chaplain for the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Sam Houston, will be the service's keynote speaker.

"He will deliver an address that supports the MLK Observance theme. The theme hasn't changed in years. It is 'Remember, Celebrate, Act: A Day On, Not a Day Off,'" Sergeant Harrell said.

The memorial service will also feature a performance by a local area youth dance team. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Throughout January, commemorative posters honoring Dr. King will be exhibited at several base locations. Designed by Brooks physician Lt. Col. John Stea, the posters focus on the

slain civil rights leader's contributions to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"It's important for people to put things in the context of history. My concept in designing the poster was to connect Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He and President Lyndon Johnson were part of the driving force behind passage of this act 40 years ago," said Lt. Col. Stea, an Air Force Medical Support Agency preventive medicine doctor who in 2003 chaired the Brooks committee that commemorated the 40th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's visit here.



Courtesy photo

President Lyndon Johnson meets with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and several other Civil Rights leaders. Dr. King will be remembered by the Brooks community at a Jan. 13 observance at Hangar 9.

## AFRL's research roots deepen while growing new branch

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Air Force Research Laboratory enhanced its warfighter support capabilities Dec. 17 when it officially announced the creation of a new BioBehavioral Systems Branch.

The announcement was made during a ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted at the new organization's home in Building 1162, located near the Frank Tejeda Directed Energy Bioeffects Laboratory. The creation of this branch further solidifies AFRL's commitment to joint Tri-Service Department of Defense bioeffects research between the Air Force, Army and Navy.

"Today we gather to celebrate the addition of a new branch. We also celebrate the addition of a new capability to the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate's already extraordinary toolkit," said Dr. Hendrick Ruck, AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate director.

Ruck explained, "This new BioBehavioral Systems Branch will provide science and technology support for non-lethal, directed energy, and novel effects weapons in support of Air Force and joint operations. This new branch will do so by providing theoretically sound and empirically rigorous research on the physiological and psychological effects of such weapons."

Dr. Ruck characterized the branch's creation as "a giant step" toward fulfilling the Human Effectiveness Directorate's vision: "Unleashing the Power of Human Performance Through Technology." The impetus for the initiative supports DOD policy to develop and field non-lethal weapons which would be employed to save lives. These lives, Dr. Ruck noted, include both military and foreign non-combatants.

AFRL officials explained that the Biobehavioral Systems Branch is rooted to the 1996 approval of DOD's Non Lethal Weapons Policy



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, Dr. Hendrick Ruck, director of AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate, Dr. Garrett Polhamus, chief of the Directed Energy Bioeffects Division and Lt. Col. Noel Montgomery participate in a ribbon cutting for the new BioBehavioral Systems Branch.

Directive 3000.3. This historic document made the U.S. Marine Corps executive agent for non-lethal weapons development while also providing for the first time the impetus for DOD to address hazards to 'target populations,' weapons operators and bystanders. AFRL's reputation for cutting-edge bioeffects research for aviation and space-born activities made the organization uniquely suited to expand its capabilities by creating this new branch, enhancing the Tri-Service partnership.



Courtesy photo  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King with President Lyndon Johnson.

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## COMMENTARY

# Commander's Log: AFMC goals

By Gen. Greg Martin  
 Air Force Materiel Center commander

Happy New Year to each of you. Thank you for all you do every day to support the Air Force Materiel Command and our Air Force, and thank you for the tremendous work you did last year to help bring such important recognition to this Command's important contributions.

In my last Commander's Log, I continued the discussion of how our AFMC Goals guide the day-to-day work we accomplish across the Command. I then focused on our goal to: Develop and transition technology to maintain air, space, and information dominance. Let me recap for you.

I said that we are the technology Command for the United States Air Force, but that our efforts must go beyond pure technology. We must stay connected to the operational Air Force so we can develop relevant technology, then transition that technology to operators in the field. Only then can we maintain air, space, and information dominance. Think about what separates our United States Air Force from other air forces around the world. It is first, our outstanding people. Then it is our technology. The key is ensuring we develop and transition the right technology for our Air Force.

I then described our Air Force needs in terms of three broad areas that I consider the pillars of defining battlespace awareness: Unprecedented Survivable Endurance; Unprecedented Battlespace Visualization; Unprecedented Speed. Each of the pillars leads to what our Chief of Staff, General John Jumper, calls his three coalescing constructs: Persistence - the ability to "stare" at the battlespace from whatever sensor, platform, or combination of platforms we designate; Cursor Over the Target - the ability to select specific targets of interest instantaneously; One Time of Flight - the ability to strike a specific target in 60 seconds or less.

In this Commander's Log, I want to focus on our goal to develop, field and sustain war-winning expeditionary capabilities on time, on cost. Let me first list all our AFMC Goals to provide you a perspective. This goal applies across everything we do in AFMC and stems from our AFMC Strategic Principle—our moniker, our rallying call, the ultimate standard by which we grade ourselves as a Command: war-winning capabilities on time, on cost.

We must develop and transition relevant technology to our Air Force operators on time and on cost. We must provide acquisition support including program management, test & evaluation, and fielding of new weapon systems on time and on cost. We must sustain every weapon system our Air Force employs on time and on cost.

Our Capabilities Integration Directorate has begun the process of reviewing the many after action reports from exercises, experiments, and contingencies. AFMC/XR is becoming this Command's focal point for studies, assessments, and audits from organizations such as the Scientific Advisory Board, the Rand Corporation, and the Defense Science Board. The purpose is to understand the shortfalls and deficiencies in our weapon systems and to be able to better connect our Science & Technology opportunities with our acquisition programs in ways that will accelerate our ability to develop and field war-winning capabilities.

Equally important are our efforts to restructure our workforce into a Resource Earning Unit (REU) construct. In other words, we have to be able to fully understand the value and contribution of each member of our workforce to the mission of the organization to which he or she is assigned. In the past, our System Program Offices varied immensely in size and scope of work. And, over a period of time, we allowed ourselves to give up manpower authorizations without fully knowing what work could no longer be completed. In our willingness to assist the Air Force in its efforts to downsize, we "salami-sliced" each of our organizations, and in some cases we gave up full mission capabilities such as

Developmental Planning. Under this methodology, we were able to hire contract support people to make up for manpower losses and charge the bill to the customer MAJCOMs.

In order to properly provide the most effective acquisition support to our acquisition partners, we have to better define the "core" SPO and its proper manpower requirements—and then we must properly resource the SPO as defined. Clearly, some SPOs will be larger than others, so as a result, we have chosen to label them with the standard Air Force unit designations of Wings, Groups, and Squadrons. At that point, the rest of the Air Force will begin to understand our organizational structure in a way that our organizations will automatically earn resources by virtue of their existence. Clearly this will require a major cultural adjustment, but in the end, I believe we will be in a much better position for our people to compete fairly with the rest of the Air Force across the board. As we apply this methodology to the "acquisition support" part of our mission, we will also be able to use it with regard to our Test and Evaluation mission and our Sustainment mission as well.

In addition to the organizational changes discussed above, we are working major financial restructuring for both our TE and Sustainment missions. The major premise is that there are certain costs of maintaining the infrastructure and developing capabilities that should not be borne by the customer, but rather should be borne by AFMC. Currently, our activities are funded by the customer on a fully-reimbursable basis. We believe that many of those costs should be considered as indirect costs and that AFMC should be allocated those funds in a way that it can best plan for their use and hence be driven to improve efficiency. Although this idea represents a major departure from the way we have operated in the past, it is designed to help AFMC become accountable for its ability to deliver on time and on cost.

I hope each of you had a chance during the Holiday Season to take a moment and reflect on your contributions to peace and freedom around the world. Please don't take your contributions for granted. As we launch into the New Year, please know that I am grateful for your dedication and your serious desire to deliver: War-winning capabilities on time, on cost.

Be safe, be well, and let's all be good Wingmen,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.  
 Gen. Greg Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, sports protective sunglasses as he speaks to members of the Brooks City-Base community in December as part of his tour of all the AFMC bases.



# Air Force continues to help in tsunami relief effort

The death toll has risen to more than 100,000 following the earthquake and tsunamis that hit coastal areas across South Asia and Africa Dec. 26. Hundreds of thousands of adults and children remain missing or are in need of shelter, food and water in the affected countries.

The Air Force, including Airmen stationed at Kadena Air Base, Japan, and the Air Force OneSource, are working to provide relief to the survivors of what has been described as one of the worst national disasters in history.

By speaking with an Air Force OneSource consultant, you can access up-to-date information, help and support. Call 24 hours a day to discuss how to obtain information about relief efforts, how to help or make a donation, what to do if someone you know is missing or how to cope following a trauma.

For information about the welfare and whereabouts of American citizens who may be missing following the natural disaster, go to: <http://www.state.gov> or call 1-888-407-4747 from the United States or 317-472-2328 from overseas. For information about non-U.S. friends or relatives who may be missing, go to the Web site of the American Red Cross at [http://www.redcross.org/article/0,1072,0\\_312\\_3876,00.html](http://www.redcross.org/article/0,1072,0_312_3876,00.html) for more information.

Many U.S. aid agencies are accepting contributions to assist victims of this natural disaster, including the American Red Cross, CARE, Doctors Without Borders and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. An Air Force OneSource consultant can provide you with a full list of relief agencies and information on how to make a contribution today.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard Freeland

Tech. Sgt. Justin Sturn of the 733rd Air Mobility Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, loads cases of packaged meals onto an aircraft pallet bound for Southeast Asia. The meals are part of a disaster relief package destined for the area struck by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake Dec. 26 off the coast of Indonesia. The quake caused tsunami waves that killed at least 70,000 people in 12 countries. More than 3,000 cases of meals and four aircraft pallets of fresh water were processed through Kadena's cargo area Dec. 28. Airmen from the 18th Wing here are providing supplies to help with the humanitarian effort.



Photo by 1st Lt. Warren Comer

An aircraft loaded with supplies is headed for a forward-operating base in Utapao, Thailand. The supplies are intended to help other Airmen conduct missions supporting tsunami relief efforts in Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India.

## How to help tsunami victims

Relief efforts are underway, but due to the sheer number of people who need help and the difficulty in reaching many of the remote areas affected by the quake and resulting tsunami, these efforts are proving to be challenging. If you'd like to help tsunami victims, contact one of the organizations listed at the end of this article.

Below is a list of aid agencies that are accepting donations to help victims of the earthquake and tsunami. For a longer list of agencies, go to [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) and click on "how to help."

Action Against Hunger — [www.actionagainsthunger.org](http://www.actionagainsthunger.org)  
Americares® — [www.americares.org](http://www.americares.org)  
American Red Cross — <http://redcross.org>  
CARE® — [www.careusa.org](http://www.careusa.org)  
Doctors Without Borders — [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)  
Oxfam America — [www.oxfamamerica.org](http://www.oxfamamerica.org)  
Save the Children® — [www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)  
The Salvation Army® — [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)  
The U.N. World Food Programme — [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)  
U.S. Fund for UNICEF — [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org)



## Community wowed by Air Force IMAX movie premiere

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Characterizing the recently released film "Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag" as a long-overdue but worthwhile movie the Air Force can be proud of, Air Education and Training Command commander Gen. Donald Cook lauded the film's sponsors during a keynote address following a sneak preview of the flick Dec. 16 at the IMAX Theatre Rivercenter.

Brooks community members were among hundreds of people who viewed the movie a day before its San Antonio premiere. The national release of the film in December is widely regarded by Air Force leaders as one of the most realistic movies depicting fighter pilot training ever made.

"What an opportunity to have the Texas premiere in San Antonio. I can think of no finer city to

have it than the birthplace of military aviation," said General Cook. He was referring to Lt. Benjamin Foulois, who on Feb. 10, 1910 piloted the first military flight in U.S. aviation history at Fort Sam Houston when he flew a modified Wright flyer biplane.

San Antonio would eventually become the center of fighter pilot training during and after World War I through primary and advanced flying training at Brooks and Kelly Fields.

The focus of this Air Force-inspired documentary is the international training exercise Red Flag conducted at Nellis AFB, Nevada. This exercise, General Cook explained, was created based on input from Vietnam veteran pilots. "The Air Force did not train sufficiently in realistic environments as reflected in combat losses in Vietnam, unlike World II and Korea where victories far exceeded defeats," General Cook told the audience.

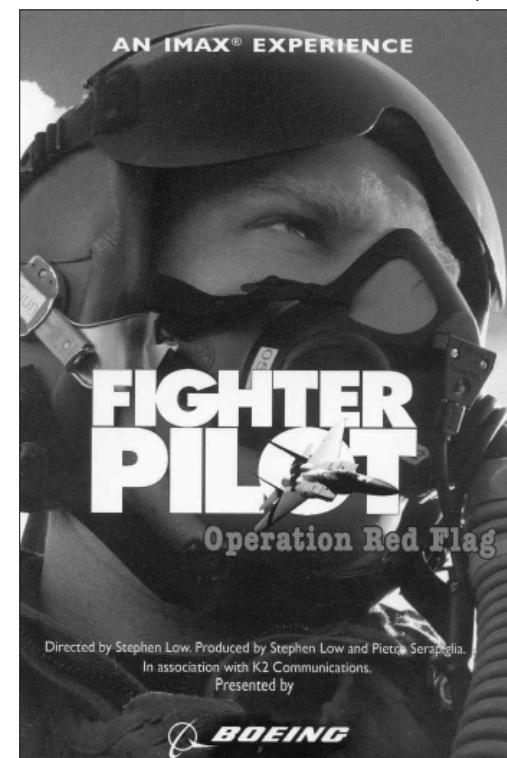
Red Flag was created in 1975 as the ultimate challenge to fighter pilots involved in joint combat training operations with foreign air forces. Dramatically captured on film in all its intensity, Red Flag demonstrates the complexity, danger and stresses involved in the most intense training the Air Force has to offer fighter pilots short of real combat. General Cook quoted an Air Force Gulf War II pilot who said, "If you can do Red Flag, you can do Baghdad."

Bob Kresser, the film's executive producer, said the Air Force's senior leadership had wanted a film that it can call its own for years since the premiere of the U.S. Navy documentary "Image Flight." K2 Communications was given unprecedented access to Nellis AFB for on-location shooting of Red Flag that featured 128 aircraft from six nations. Boeing underwrote the project.

"There's a great story in Red Flag. Many challenges were involved in making it, including accurately portraying it. It's an enormous, complex exercise," Mr. Kresser said, characterizing it as 'organized chaos.' He added, "The Air Force provided amazing support and wonderful technical assistance to ensure accuracy and realism."

So real were the action sequences that aerial cinematographer Clay Lacy, whose film credits include "Top Gun" and "Air Force One," admitted to the movie's director Stephen Lowe "that it was the only time he was really scared" in his career.

IMAX showings of "Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag" at the



Courtesy artwork  
Promotional art for the IMAX movie "Fighter Pilot: Operational Red Flag."

Rivercenter Theatre are: noon, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. For more information about the film visit [www.fighterpilot.com](http://www.fighterpilot.com).



## Holiday decorating contest winners



Photos by Kendahl Johnson



Mike Quinn of the Brooks Development Authority presented the first-place award to employees at the health clinic (left). Mr. Quinn presented second prize to the Chapel for their nativity scene (top right) and third prize to the Mission Support Group (bottom right). Honorable mentions went to Logistics and the Air Force Institute for Operational Health.

## HAILS and FAREWELLS

### Brooks chaplain retiring

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rodger Ericson will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Hangar 9. Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, the Deputy Chief of Chaplains will preside and Sam Carter Gilliam, a speaking artist, will make a special brief monologue entitled Tending the Flock. After 10 years as a parish Lutheran pastor, Chaplain Ericson served over 24 years as an Air Force chaplain, which included three deployments. Chaplain Ericson invites all to attend.

### Former HSPO deputy retires



Vern Jauer

Vern Jauer, former deputy to the system program commander for the Human Systems Program Office, enjoyed a retirement ceremony on Dec. 20 at Hangar 9. Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis, commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, was the retiring official.

Mr. Jauer entered civil service in 1969 after graduating from New Mexico State University with a degree in industrial engineering. He joined the Brooks community in February 2000.



# A LOOK at BROOKS

What is your  
New Year's  
resolution?



Eli Rush  
Hangar 9 Museum  
technician



Sr. Airman Ashley Potts  
Personnel security  
specialist/311th HSW



Master Sgt. Scott Streton  
Anti-Terrorism NCO/  
311th HSW



LaWanda Roper  
Family Support Services



Capt. Kyle Little  
Judge Advocate's office

To improve the museum  
by enhancing the exhibits.

Do my best to be a better  
parent for my children.

I don't believe in that stuff.  
You should be doing it all  
year long.

To complete my Comprehensive  
Examination and START on my dissertation.

Sharpen my military and  
personal interaction skills.

## JAG Corps accepting applications for law programs

By Major Thomas Biediger  
311th Human Systems Wing/JA

Brooks City-Base company grade officers with an interest in the law are encouraged to explore two Air Force programs that would allow them to pursue law degrees without leaving the Air Force and then serve in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

The programs, the Funded Legal Education Program and the Excess Leave Program begin accepting applications in January.

FLEP is a paid legal-studies program. Program applicants must be active-duty captains or

below with between two and six years of active-duty service as of the first day of law school.

The ELP is an unpaid legal-studies program. Program applicants must have two to 10 years active-duty service before entering law school. They must also be captains (with less than three years of time in grade) or below as of the first day of law school.

Both programs are very competitive. The overall 2004 selection rate for the programs was 18 percent, according to the JAG recruiting Web site. Both programs, which provide the Air Force with lawyers who already have a good understanding of the

military, begin accepting applications in January.

JAG officers routinely participate in nearly every facet of the Air Force mission, including developing and acquiring weapons systems and ensuring availability of airspace and ranges where those systems are tested and operated. They also consult with commanders about how those systems are used in armed conflict and assist in the day-to-day running of military installations worldwide.

"The (programs) round out the JAG Corps by supplying a cadre of uniquely experienced officers who combine law school educa-

tions with operational Air Force time," said Maj. Rachel VanLandingham, recruiting branch chief for the Air Force Office of the Judge Advocate General. "The goal of both programs is to provide commanders with the best legal advice possible, tailored to evolving Air Force needs."

Applicants must have completed all application forms and applied to a law school that has been accredited by the American Bar Association; however, acceptance into the school is not required at time of application. They must also receive their Law School Admissions Test results and complete a staff judge advocate interview by March 1.

Col. Greg Porter, the Staff Judge Advocate for the 311th Human Systems Wing encourages interested officers to apply. "Air Force JAGs are without question among the finest legal professionals anywhere," Colonel Porter said. "We have an exciting and challenging job, and we continuously seek to bring talented officers into our ranks."

Qualifications are found in Air Force Instruction 51-101, Judge Advocate Accession Program or at [www.jagusaf.hq.af.mil](http://www.jagusaf.hq.af.mil).

For more information, contact Maj. VanLandingham at 1-800-524-8723. Officers at Brooks City-Base may also contact Col. Porter at the base legal office to schedule an interview.



BRIG GEN. TOM TRAVIS  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

**The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:**

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
311th Mission Support Group – Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Safety.....	536-2111	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Office.....	533-5905	BXMarket.....	533-9079
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366

## WORKING OUT

Photo by Kendahl Johnson



Three members of the Brooks community take time during the lunch hour to work out at the Brooks Fitness Center. Gyms around the community were packed this week as people resolved to exercise. Losing weight and exercising are two of the most popular resolutions set at the start of the new year.

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

### FINANCIAL FITNESS

Jan. 12 – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Topics include looking at long term and short term financial goals, preparing for impending changes and creating a debt reduction plan.

### BUNDLES FOR BABIES

Jan. 27 – 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Bldg. 537

Expectant parents session: active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and much more.

### SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

Feb. 15 – 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask YOUR questions! Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses. Overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

### VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537  
A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

To register for class,  
Call 536-2444

### AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY

The Gen. Henry Arnold Education grant program awards \$1,500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of Air Force members and spouses of Air Force members. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. This program is tailored for Air Force families with college students (rank does not disqualify you). Application deadline is March 11, 2005. Pick up your application at the Family Support Center or visit the website at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) to get more information and download an application.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BCB technology expo

The Brooks City Base Technology Expo will be held Wednesday, Jan. 26 in the Brooks Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to attend the free event.

More than 20 different exhibitors will be demonstrating the latest in computer hardware, software and information services. Some featured technologies include knowledge management solutions, data warehousing, network operations services, information assurance and security, and mobile/wireless computing.

The event will include complimentary refreshments and free giveaways while supplies last.

For more information, or to request a specific company or technology, please contact Kathryn Stephenson at 888-603-8899.

## Women's lunch bible study

Join other women from the Brooks community in a weekly study utilizing Rick Warren's bestseller: *The Purpose Driven Life*. The study will be held Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 20 at the base chapel. There are limited slots available and to attend, you must register with Ms Diana McCurtain at 536-2397.

## Military spouse employment

On Aug. 30, 2003, Headquarters, U.S. European Command completed a two-year trial program for exercising spouse preference. This Military Spouse Preference pilot program permitted military spouses to accept an unlimited number of temporary, intermittent or flexible schedule po-

sitions without loss of their, military spouse preference. The goal of the program was to increase meaningful employment opportunities for military spouses on United States bases overseas.

Because the EUCOM pilot was so successful, Ginger Groeger, the Deputy Under Secretary, has authorized the implementation of the provisions of the MSP program on a permanent basis, both in the United States and overseas.

"The mobility requirements of the military family, limit the possibility of career advancement for military spouses who accompany the member from one duty station to another," Ms. Groeger said.

These new policies and procedures are effective immediately and apply to positions paid from appropriated and nonappropriated funds. Please contact the Civilian Personnel Center at 536-3353 for more information.

**National prayer breakfast**  
Come and hear Brig. Gen. Cecil Richardson, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, speak about "Reasons for Hope" at Brook's 2005 National Prayer Breakfast. It will be held at Brooks Club on Jan. 11 starting at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Contact your 1st Shirt for a ticket or the chapel at 536-3824.

**Sergeants Association**  
The Brooks chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association meets the second Tuesday of every month. The meeting is at 3 p.m. at Sidney's Grill. Council nominations will be Jan. 11 followed by elections Feb. 8.

## Recommended readings to help with resolutions

By Janice McMahon  
SVS Marketing Office



Millions of people everywhere have already started working towards their resolutions for the New Year. A large percentage of those people will either forgot them or chose to ignore them. Below is a list of books available at the Base Library to help you jump start your resolutions. Check out one or more of the books offered to help you achieve your 2005 new year's resolutions.

### Quit smoking

- The Stop Smoking Diet by Jane Ogle
- Switch Down and Quit: What the Cigarette Companies Don't Want You to Know About Smoking by Dolly D. Gahagan
- Stop the abuse of alcohol consumption

— How to Stay Sober: Recovery Without Religion by James Christopher

— Drug and Alcohol Abuse: The Authoritative Guide for Parents, Teachers, and Counselors by Howard T. Milhorn

### Lose weight

- Change One: The Breakthrough 12-Week Eating Plan: Lose Weight Simply, Safely, and Forever by John Hastings

— Jenny Craig's What Have You Got to Lose? A Personalized Weight Management Program by Jenny Craig

### Manage time better

- The 10 Natural Laws of Successful Time and Life Management: Proven Strategies for Increased Productivity and Inner Peace by Hyrum W. Smith

— How to Set and Achieve Goals: Strategies for Taking Control of Your Own Life and Getting What you Want (recording)

### Improve self-esteem

- Self-Esteem: The Power to be Your Best by Mark Towers

- Life Strategies: Doing What Works, Doing What Matters by Phillip McGraw

### Get organized

- How to Organize Your Work and Your Life by Robert Moskowitz

- How to Organize Effective Conferences and Meetings by David Seekings

### Improve financial situation

- The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom by Suze Orman

- Debt No More: How to Get Totally Out of Debt Including Your Mortgage by Carolyn White

### Exercise to become healthier

- I Need to Get Into Shape, Now What? by Carol Leonetti Dannhauser

- Exercising For Fitness by Clarence Percy Gilmore

### Work on improving relationships

- Secret Language of Children by Lawrence Shapiro

- Mars and Venus Starting Over: a Practical Guide for Finding Love Again After a Painful Breakup, Divorce, or the Loss of a Loved One by John Gray

### Other new base library books:

How Good Do You Want To Be? By Nick Saban  
LSU's head football coach gives tips on how to lead and succeed at work and in life.

Why Men Earn More by Warren Farrell  
The startling truth behind the pay gap and what women can do about it.

The Success Principles by Jack Canfield

How to get from where you are to where you want to be.

The United States of Europe by T.R. Reid

The new superpower and the end of American supremacy.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation by Max Allan Collins

Bob Greene's Total Body Make Over by Bob Greene



# Materiel Command rolls out newest deployment readiness tools

By Kathleen A.K. Lopez

AFMC Public Affairs

Individuals involved with readiness activities throughout Air Force Materiel Command have access now to the command's newest Operational Support electronic information system capabilities, thanks to the command's Transformation Directorate.

"The new capabilities allow orderly room personnel, functional area managers, installation deployment officers and unit training managers to join unit deployment managers, commanders and others already sharing readiness information," said Capt. Doug Baxter, AFMC transformation lead for the Deployment Readiness Service.

The changes will improve deployment readiness.

The DRS combines information from official information sources with local training data, and provides the ability to do in a few mouse clicks what it currently takes days or weeks to complete, according to Mr. Craig McComb, AFMC's Transformation Directorate technical director. The tools represent another step toward implementing web-based applications designed to radically change current operational support systems.

"The DRS provides units with tools to manage individual deployment readiness, tracking items such as chemical warfare training and immunization currency," Captain Baxter said.

Additionally, the DRS will provide such support as online training scheduling, duty availability and status codes, he said. As

a result deployment managers will know immediately if their people are ready, and if not, why not.

Currently, many existing Air Force systems require individuals to collect the information and manually enter the data.

"The DRS vision is to integrate information, capturing it at the source, if possible, and simplifying the process for users by facilitating and tracking the information," the captain said.

Another significant addition to the DRS is the Commanders Dashboard.

"The Commanders Dashboard offers situational awareness visualization for a commander," said Maj. Jeff Stephan, Material Systems Group program manager. "Through it, commanders can access deployment readiness, duty status rosters, training data, additional duty assignments, Air Expeditionary Force rotation cycles and much more."

As a whole DRS is fundamentally different from traditional, custom-coded computer systems.

"Since DRS was configured on commercial software not specifically built for deployment it can be used to satisfy many other operational support information needs," Major Stephan said. "The system allows AFMC to configure many other cross-functional 'information services' under a family of services concept known as Global Expeditionary Management Services."

"The vision is to continue providing cross-functional information for users rather than having users manually collect and integrate information for entry into more than one system," Major Stephan said.

To bring its vision to fruition, the Transformation Directorate is working with the Global Combat Support System program office on infrastructure improvements.

"We are moving DRS from an AFMC infrastructure to an Air Force infrastructure to support a greater number of users, building a system that allows DRS to publish information for use by other systems and subscribe to information published by other systems," Capt. Baxter said.

Currently, in addition to AFMC bases, individuals from offices in a variety of commands, including Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Education and Training Command, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command, have registered to use DRS.

"We continue to get inquiries from people throughout the Air Force asking for DRS access," said Major Stephan. "Their stories are similar — most are tired of having to deal with cumbersome processes and manual integration of information from several sources. They are looking forward to being able to use DRS."

While the Transformation Directorate is pleased with the progress it has made supporting operational readiness, it is not content to rest on its laurels.

"What we currently are doing with the DRS is fantastic," Major Stephan said, "but it only scratches the surface. We have a lot more we want to do to maintain our war-winning capabilities."

## EARLY MORNING RUN



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, leads an early morning run. The five kilometer run, promoted as the New Year's Resolution Commander's run, was sponsored by the Company Grade Officers Council.



## FEATURE

**Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

By Kendahl Johnson  
Discovery editor

From humble beginnings in a small town in the South to a coveted job in the judge advocate's office at Brooks City-Base, Staff Sgt. John Parker is in the fast lane of a successful life and career. Whether he's working a case, spending time with his family or dragging the strip on a Friday night, he can't slow down.

Sergeant Parker had a tough start on life. He grew up in the small town of Holly Hill, S.C., near Charleston, as an only child. His parents divorced when he was a young child and it was just him and his father, who was a truck driver. At the age of 12, his father was killed in a trucking accident and he went to live with his grandparents.

"It was tough at 12 years old, but I was from a small community," Sergeant Parker said. "The community came together. My grandparents raised me and I was comfortable with them. Everyone took me in. And as life goes on, you get stronger."

In ninth grade, Parker met his future wife. They began dating seriously by 10th grade and following graduation in 1995, the high school sweethearts were married. "You don't find a lot of pretty girls in a small town like Holly Hill, so when you find one, you make sure to keep her," he said with a smile.

Just three days after his marriage, he went to Lackland Air Force Base for basic training. "I spent my honeymoon at boot camp," he said.

Following basic training, he spent six weeks in Wichita Falls at a technical school preparing for a career in health administration. His first assignment was at Brooks Air Force Base working at the Brooks Clinic, where he spent six years. For his next assignment, Sergeant Parker was transferred to his first base of preference – Charleston

AFB, where he was closer to home and to family. After two years at Charleston, and over eight years in the health career field, he decided it was time for a change.

His first thought was to become an agent for the Office of Special Investigations. But his thoughts kept returning to his wife and his two children and his love for his family dissuaded him from applying.

"I felt that I'd be taking away from my family with that job," Parker said. "I think having a father figure in the home is very important. I know what it's like to grow up without a father and I don't want my kids to ever be without their father. Being an agent would keep me from being home and put more risk on my life. There's a chance you can get killed everyday."

Instead, he pursued a career in a field that he felt was closely related to being an OSI agent – the field of law. He spent six weeks at a paralegal course in Maxwell, Ala., to become an assistant in military justice. Because he hadn't updated his base of preference "dream sheet," he was sent back to Brooks to work in the judge advocate's office. He is currently the NCIOC for civil law.

He spends his time doing legal research and administrative legal work. He also prepares and processes Article 15 and discharge packages. "I don't try any cases; I do research for the cases, but I don't get to sit at the table and do the cool stuff," Parker said, adding that although the JAG is cool on television, it isn't as glamorous in real life. "For all those people who want to come into this career field because of JAG, don't do it," he warned.

He has found his new career enjoyable. "Sometimes it can be tough, but overall it's very rewarding. Some of the things I do have an actual impact on a lot of people. You want to make the

# Life in the fast lane

military a better place and we help make that happen."

For Parker, there are just a few downsides to the job. One is that knowing someone's career can be affected by what you do can make the work stressful. "What we do affects lives of those who may be innocent," he said. "You are trying to do your best to see that justice is done, so you can get a little stressed out. It's stressful, but at the end of the day you always feel good because you are making a difference."

Another downside for Parker is seeing some of the unfortunate mistakes people make and the affect it has on their careers and their lives. "People make mistakes. I am an avid believer that people can be rehabilitated but sometimes it doesn't go the way I would like to see it go. That can be demoralizing, but people make choices they have to live with."

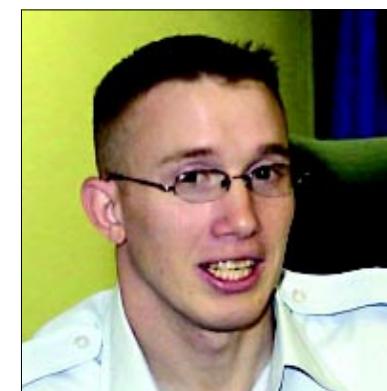
And surprisingly, the job has had a negative impact on his social life. "My first time here, I had a lot of friends and I used to get invited to parties," Sergeant Parker said. "No one calls to invite me to parties anymore. And if I call anyone, they automatically assume they are in trouble."

Despite the few downsides, Parker is happy with what he is doing. Yet working in the law career field has increased his desire to be an agent. "The agents are really what makes the case happen – how they investigate and the behind-the-scenes work. It's the most important part of the process," he said. "I'm still thinking about being an OSI agent; I really want to be an agent."

It wouldn't surprise anyone who knows Parker outside of work see him reach this dream, despite the risks involved. The reason being that his two favorite pastimes are risky by nature. Parker turbo charges his Dodge SRT-4 with performance parts and on the weekends, races it at the Rivercity Raceway drag strip. He also enjoys riding his motorcycle.

"It's not as risky as it sounds," Sergeant Parker said. "I don't street race. I haven't had any close calls because it is organized racing. And I don't race my bike on the track. I ride more for recreation. I've been tempted (to race), but am too scared. I totaled my last bike so I don't take it (my new motorcycle) to the track."

Sergeant Parker will continue to cruise the fast lane of success as it's still early in career – he's only in his 10th year in the military. And although it may permanently kill his social life, don't be surprised to see "Special Agent Parker" working cases in the future.



PARKER

## Q&A

FULL NAME/RANK:  
Staff Sergeant  
John Thomas Parker III

DUTY TITLE,  
ORGANIZATION:  
Assistant NCOIC of  
Military Justice

IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:  
I do a lot of everything, but mostly I prepare and process Article 15 and discharge packages

BIRTHDAY:  
August 22, 1976

HOMETOWN:  
Holly Hill, S.C.

FAMILY STATUS:  
Married with two children,  
an eight year old daughter and  
a three year old son

PERSONAL MOTTO:  
"Get like Nike and Just do it"

PET PEEVE:  
People who go slow in the fast lane  
and will not get over

INSPIRATIONS:  
My family and grandparents

HOBBIES:  
Riding my motorcycle and installing  
performance parts on my 2004  
Dodge SRT-4 and drag racing it at  
the track

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:  
Finish my bachelor's degree  
and pin on at least an E-7

ULTIMATE GOAL:  
To be a great husband to my wife  
and a cool dad my children will  
want to hang around when they get  
older

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:  
Buy a house, followed by a  
Twin Turbo 944 Porsche

MY GREATEST  
ACCOMPLISHMENT:  
My children and my marriage

MY MOST PRIZED  
POSSESSION:  
2004 Honda 600rr motorcycle



## FEATURE

# Artist unveils unique statue in honor of late congressman

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Woodcarver Michael Pasko added another artistic treasure to Brooks City-Base when he unveiled a one-of-a-kind statue of the late Congressman Frank Tejeda during a Dec. 17 Air Force Research Laboratory ceremony at Building 1162.

The unveiling of the five-and-a-half-foot tall, 450-pound woodcarving of Congressman Tejeda depicted as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam coincided with AFRL's Biobehavioral Systems Branch announcement ceremony.

This unusual creation will be on loan here throughout 2005 as part of a temporary exhibit at the Frank Tejeda Directed Energy Bioeffects Laboratory. The artist plans to display the statue on a rotational basis at other San Antonio locations over the next several years to include such venues as the Witte Museum and the Institute of Texan Cultures.

"I didn't know Frank Tejeda, but he was responsible for creating a house for homeless veterans run by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. It was there where I was inspired to do the statue honoring him," Mr. Pasko said. The artist, homeless for five years, spent 6,000 hours to complete the Tejeda statue in a storage shed where he lived. Mr. Pasko's dream was to premiere his work at Brooks City-Base. Located on the southside where Congressman Tejeda grew up, the base is also in the 28th congressional district that he represented from 1992 until his death on Jan. 30, 1997.

The memorial statue is the world's largest full-scale figure featuring the

5th century style of Japanese woodcarving called the Yosegi technique, adopted from an earlier Chinese art form. Mr. Pasko is the only known U.S. artist to use this style of woodcarving that involves interlocking blocks of wood.

He collaborated with local artists Frank Ramirez and Oscar Duran to create a masterpiece in pine that combined 32 separate pieces. "It (technique) was introduced in Japan in 530 B.C. It's joint block construction, using layers of wood to form one block," said Mr. Duran. He explained that this technique makes a completed work more durable and easier to transport because the wood blocks are hollow.

Mr. Pasko, who has no formal art school training, did not know about this Japanese art form when he began to re-create several years ago Leonardo DaVinci's "The Last Supper" using the Yosegi technique. Unaware that the style he was using was an ancient art form, Mr. Pasko became only the second known artist in the world to perpetuate this 2,500 year-old artistic tradition. The other Yosegi artist lives in Japan. "He (Oscar) discovered it," Mr. Pasko said, crediting his friend for noticing the uniqueness of his wood-layering style.

Born August 11, 1956 in Jamaica, Queens, New York to Italian-Yugoslav parents, Mr. Pasko began carving wood as a youth. Yet

he didn't fully develop his craft until after he hit the road as a tractor-trailer driver. Using his big rig as a workshop, he crafted his first Yosegi creation: a lifesize statue of John Wayne, now on display at a café near San Fernando Cathedral.

A few years ago, he decided to devote his life to art fulltime. He quit his job and literally became a homeless person. A \$5,000 grant from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission helped Mr. Pasko continue his art leading to the Tejeda statue. He used the money to purchase specialized equipment and supplies. Since then, he has invested \$25,000 in the project. "There was no statue of him anywhere," confessed Mr. Pasko, noting that the most appropriate place for it is the AFRL laboratory building named in the late congressman's honor.

"He (artist) went against the odds just like Frank. He gave his heart, mind and soul to do this. It's a beautiful thing. It's something that should have been done a long time ago," said Val Martinez, a retired Marine who served with Tejeda during the Vietnam War. The Bexar County Sheriff's deputy said the statue is a fitting tribute to a visionary leader who fought for his country and for the community in which he served. "He (Tejeda) was a one-of-a-kind man," Martinez said, explaining that the statue is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece symbolic of the personal sacrifices made by both the honoree and the artist.

No longer homeless, Mr. Pasko works as a designer for Miracles In Wood. He credits the Tejeda family for helping him complete the project. "His widow Celia and daughter Sonja were very supportive," Mr. Pasko said, noting that they provided him with photos of the late congressman used in the statue's design.

The artist hopes to promote interest in the Yosegi technique among art patrons in San Antonio and throughout the U.S. Mr. Pasko plans to tour the Tejeda statue, including exhibitions at the McNay Art Museum, the San Antonio Museum of Art and possibly the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

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Artists Oscar Duran (left) and Michael Pasko examine an exhibit panel displayed in Bldg. 1162 that details the history of the ancient art form used in the creation of the Tejeda statue.

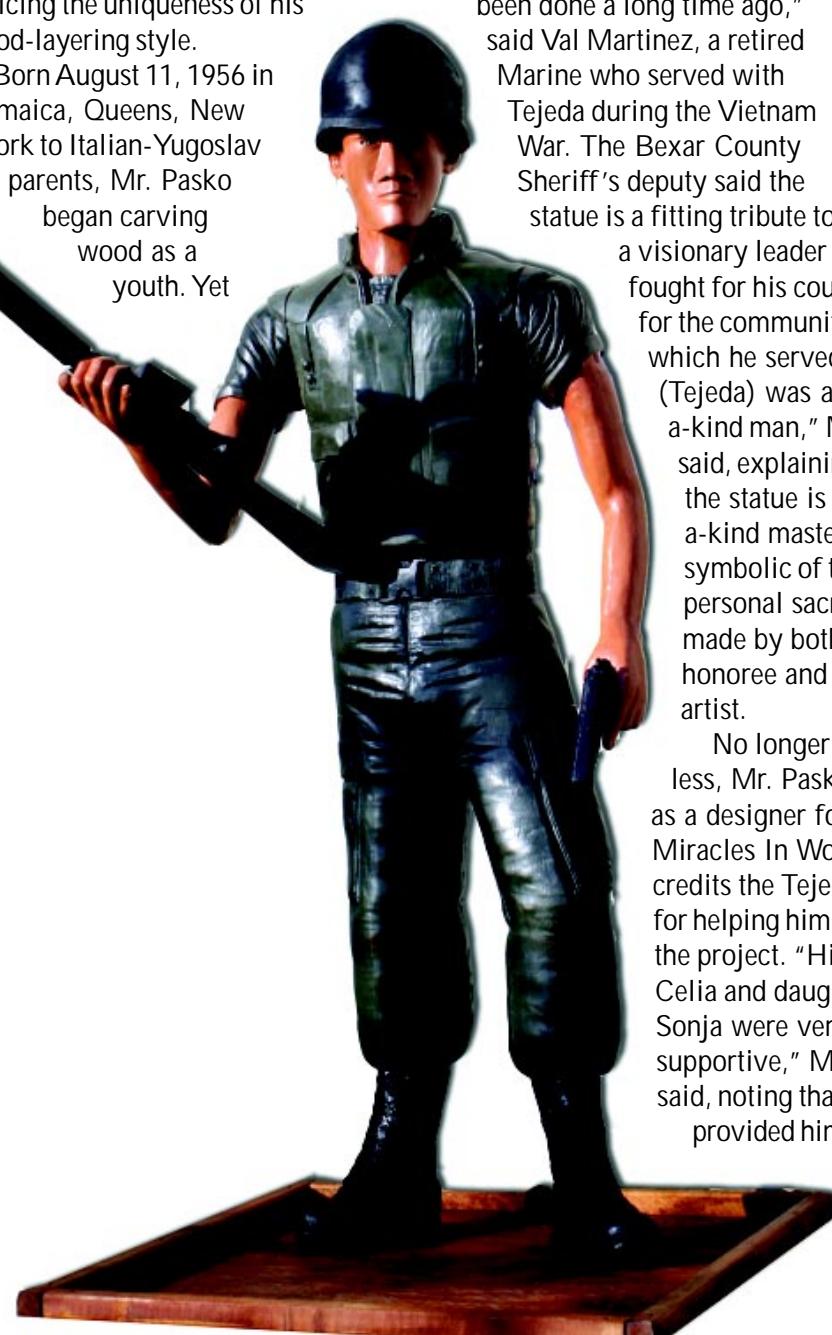


Photo by Kendahl Johnson



Photos by Rudy Purificato



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# Brooks NCO's home filled with legendary sports stars

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

He was a star athlete in high school, but was content with a non-pro sports career despite having 'stars' in his eyes. For as good as Master Sgt. Quentin Benning had become as a champion boxer and wrestler, he could not escape the shadow cast by some of the giants of the sports world whose celebrity illuminated his home.

From Pro Football Hall of Famer Gayle Sayers to Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Bob Gibson, the Quentin family and their Omaha, Neb., neighbors became accustomed to sports excellence through their association with famous hometown citizens.

"Bob Gibson was a friend of my mother and Uncle George (Cox). He (Gibson) would come over to our house. He had an intense personality," said Sergeant Benning, 311th Communications Squadron's Mission Support Flight superintendent. Not only was the future St. Louis Cardinals pitching star a periodic visitor to the Benning home, but his 'battery mate' on the diamond was none other than Uncle George. "My uncle was a catcher who played ball with Gibson. I remember my uncle and he had a baseball camp that attracted local athletes."

His uncle later joined the U.S. Navy where an injury dashed any hope of him

following his famous friend into the Major Leagues.

Gibson became one of the greatest righthanders in Major League history during a career that spanned from 1959-1975. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981.

While Gibson was Omaha's greatest baseball star, the Bennings knew quite a few future NFL stars. "Gayle Sayers went to my high school," said Sergeant Benning, who was only a child when the budding halfback set Omaha Central High School gridiron records that remain unbroken today. During his career in the NFL as a Chicago Bears halfback, Sayers was considered "the fastest human on earth" for his breakaway speed. He became a Hall of Famer in 1977.

"Keith Jones and I graduated together," said Sergeant Benning, a close friend of the NFL running back who has played for the Dallas Cowboys, Cleveland Browns and St. Louis Rams. "I have known Keith since the third grade. I thought he was going to be a track star. He had exceptional speed."

Another family friend is Green Bay Packers star running back Ahman Green who is a distant cousin. Another distant cousin is Pro Football Hall of Famer Otis Taylor, former star wide receiver for the Kansas City Chiefs. "I remember him coming over to our house on the Fourth of July. I distinctly remember him show-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Master Sgt. Quentin Benning, 311th Communications Squadron, displays a signed photo of family friend Ahman Green, star running back for the Green Bay Packers.

ing me his two Super Bowl rings," said Sergeant Benning.

"My house was a gathering spot for athletes. My father was a big sports fan who was a former boxer and football defensive end," Sergeant Benning says of his dad. "At North Texas State University he played football with Mean Joe Green," he said about the 1968 consensus All-American who later became a Pittsburgh Steelers star.

Sergeant Benning was, in his own right, an Omaha sports celebrity. "My mother got me involved in sports to control my aggression," he said. He blossomed as an athlete thanks to mentoring he received at Wesley House, a community center where budding sports stars were dissuaded from joining gangs or taking drugs.

"That's where I wrestled, boxed and learned to play football. It was there where Keith Jones and Ahman Green played in youth sports leagues," he said.

He also remembers meeting University of Nebraska head coach and future U.S. Senator Dr. Tom Osborne at Wesley House during the latter's frequent scouting visits there.

Sergeant Benning won the city boxing title in the 112-pound weight class and was state wrestling champ in 1981 and 1983. During his Air Force career, he became military state bench press champ in 1994.

No longer competitive in sports except when it comes to deep sea fishing, Sergeant Benning is content to groom the next generation of family star athletes: his two gridiron-excelling sons.

## Brooks Taekwondo champ sets sights on future Olympic career



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Matthew Bailey competes in a bout at the World Military Taekwondo Championships as a member of the All-Armed Forces team.

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Among attributes common to true sports champions is their desire to be the best in their field. This desire also motivates Airman 1st Class Matthew Bailey who, at the tender age of 20, has already accomplished a lot as the top Taekwondo champion in the Air Force.

In October, this 68th Information Operations Squadron computer technician elevated his game at the 16th World Military Taekwondo Championships in Warendorf, Germany as the Air Force member of the All-Armed Forces team.

"I lost 9-4 to him. It was a wakeup call to me. I had gotten a taste of the big time," said Bailey, referring to his oppo-

nent Asianbek Dzilev, the Russian Olympic Team featherweight. Unaccustomed to losing, Bailey learned from his experiences there in the rarified air of international competition.

His first sojourn to the world stage is but a stepping stone for this Denver, Colo. native whose interest in martial arts began when he was eight years old. "My family doctor recommended exercise because I was a little overweight. I chose Taekwondo over other sports because it, to me, was the most difficult challenge," he said.

The only child of Jan and Paul Bailey, the future Air Force martial arts champion won his first title at age 10, earning a bronze medal at the 1994 Virginia State

championships. Two years later he earned the coveted black belt rank. During the past decade Bailey has won 14 gold medals at various venues, including the Colorado State Championships, Virginia State Games, U.S. National Taekwondo Championships and the U.S. Junior Olympics.

The 2002 U.S. Junior Olympics was the last major competition that Bailey participated in before graduating from Faith Christian Academy in Arvada, Colo. While he won a gold medal there, this devout Christian decided to let God guide him concerning his future career.

"I'm a Christian. I thought God wanted me to join the Air Force," he said.

Since then, he has had the best of both worlds. His Air Force career as a computer network cryptographic switching system technician has also given him opportunities to pursue martial arts.

As a fourth-degree black belt, he made the three-member All-Air Force Taekwondo Team last year shortly after arriving at Brooks. By September, he helped his team win the All-Army Invitational at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. His impressive performances there earned him the

Air Force spot on the All-Armed Forces Team.

"My goal now is to be selected for the World Class Athletes program. Then I'll be able to train fulltime," he says, referring to being among a handful of elite Air Force athletes. This program has produced military members of the U.S. Olympic Team. "The military has some slots on the U.S. Olympic Taekwondo Team," Bailey said, saying his long-range goal is to make the team and compete in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

However, he first must qualify for the World Class Athletes program by winning a medal at either the U.S. Open or National Taekwondo Championships. He will take his next step toward that goal on March 3 in Atlanta, Ga. when he represents the Air Force at the U.S. Open Taekwondo Championships.

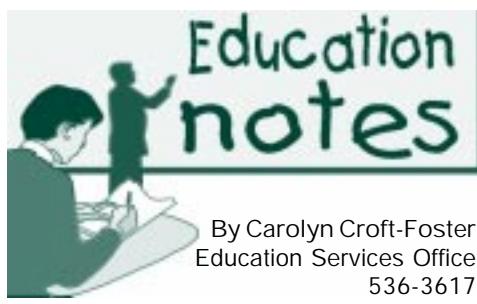
## Results of editor's college football bowl prediction challenge

In December, I challenged the readers of Discovery to pit their prediction skills against mine in the editor's college football bowl prediction challenge. Although I expected that the fear of my prognostication prowess would cause most fans to shy away from such a challenge, nine brave souls decided to test their skills against mine. Although none of the entrants was able to better me, one lucky stiff matched my final score of 16 out of 27 correct picks. Congrats to 1st Lt. Joseph Lett from Randolph AFB, who notched the first-place tie, nearly pulling off what I thought couldn't be done. Thanks to those who entered and be watching for future contests.

— Kendahl Johnson, editor



1st Lt. Joseph Lett



By Carolyn Croft-Foster  
Education Services Office  
536-3617

## Applying for tuition assistance

Air Force members at Brooks City-Base preparing to register for college courses and request Air Force tuition assistance are encouraged to apply on-line using the Air Force Virtual Education Center. Air Force members will no longer need to access the Brooks home page to apply for tuition assistance, but can accomplish this request directly through AFVEC.

AFVEC is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about educational information and benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide students one-stop-shopping for all higher education needs. In addition to the on-line TA request, AFVEC offers a wide array of on-line services to empower the student to actively participate in all aspects of their education. These services are offered to encourage progress of each educational endeavor the student chooses to participate in; whether it is requesting tuition assistance, working towards their Community College of the Air Force degree or applying for commissioning.

Individuals may access AFVEC directly through the web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through a link on the Air Force portal. Members will be required to logon to "My AFVEC" by entering their email address and password. New users will be required to create an account. Once in "My AFVEC," members should click "Request

TA" to begin the process of requesting tuition assistance.

Members will be required to know and enter basic course registration information in the on-line TA request. They must know, among other things, the school's exact term start and end dates, course code, course title and cost per semester or quarter hour. Once the member has entered and reviewed the TA request information, the request will be forwarded electronically to the education center for final review and approval. The member will be notified via email and through AFVEC when the request is approved.

## Texas State University

Texas State University offers a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3618.

## Palo Alto College registration

Palo Alto College will be offering courses on base for the spring flex 1 flex 2 semesters. The courses apply to the Community College of the Air Force degree and to civilian degrees as well. The first term begins Jan. 10 and ends March 3. Spring Flex 1 courses include college algebra, art appreciation, government and speech. The representative is available at Brooks on Tuesday mornings to assist students. Please call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

## St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University has a graduate school representative at the Education Office every Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. St. Mary's offers 24 graduate programs, including business administration, computer information systems, industrial and clinical psychology, engineering systems and international relations.

St. Mary's also offers post-baccalaureate initial teacher certification for Texas. For qualified individuals, St. Mary's graduate school offers a partial tuition grant. Additional information can be obtained by scheduling an appointment with the St. Mary's representative through the Brooks Education Office.

## Montgomery GI Bill participants can increase benefits

Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 — from \$23,400 to \$28,800 — for a maximum contribution of \$600. For more information, call 536-3618.

## Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and CCAF. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. To access the AFVEC go to [afvec.langley.af.mil](http://afvec.langley.af.mil) and establish an account. For more information call 536-3617.

## Upper Iowa on base and online

Register now for Upper Iowa University – Distance Learning. Courses are available in business and public administration. Online and correspondence courses are also available in other majors. The Upper Iowa University office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. The coordinator also holds advising hours at Lackland on Thursdays. For more information, visit the website at [www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu), stop by the Brooks office, Bldg. 558, or call 536-4033.

## Discover Program online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.

## Spouses to Teachers Program

The Department of Defense tasked Dantes to develop and manage a new pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers. The Spouses to Teachers Program has launched in six states with a large military population and a need for public school teachers, including Texas.

All eligible spouses who wish to become teachers may receive assistance from the Spouses to Teachers Program. This includes spouses who have already earned a baccalaureate degree or higher, as well as spouses who are at the undergraduate level. Degreed spouses will be counseled on their options for achieving certification and information on potential funding sources and employment opportunities.

Non-degree holders will receive help in identifying degree completion programs, as well as information about possible financial assistance, both state and federal, and the potential for finding employment as teacher's aides or other positions in public schools. To take advantage of this program, spouses may contact the Texas pilot office at 1-800-815-5484.